PUBLIC SUBMISSION

Docket: EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736
Draft Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load

Comment On: EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736-0001
Clean Water Act Section 303(d): Notice for the Public Review of the Draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Chesapeake Bay

Document: EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736-0447
Comment submitted by Halle Vander Gaag, Deputy Director, Baltimore Water Alliance

Submitter Information

Submitter's Representative: Halle Vander Gaag
Organization: The Baltimore Water Alliance

General Comment

We are pleased to support the advent and creation of the Bay wide TMDL and its related Watershed Implementation Plans. It is clear that voluntary measures have not allowed the Bay to make a comeback nor have they significantly slowed the growth of pollution from sources such as urban/suburban stormwater. The Bay is more than an environmental treasure; it is an essential economic engine for the entire region which needs a healthy eco system to thrive and be productive.

The Bay TMDL must by law be created because states have failed to do so, and multiple law suits have demanded it. Essential to a well implemented TMDL will be a willingness to demand and enforce strong Watershed Implementation Plans that are based on sound and accurate science based on real time watershed conditions. In Baltimore, we hope this will translate to effective oversight by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) of things like the new MS4 permit, sediment and erosion control, and innovative 'green infrastructure'.

We are confident that the TMDL will lead to clean waters, a healthier population, and a thriving bay-related economy. We are attaching comments submitted to MDE realted to the Phase I WIPs.

Attachments

EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736-0447.1: Comment attachment submitted by Halle Vander Gaag, Deputy Director, Baltimore Water Alliance